

## THE PACIFIC

## Commercial Advertiser

WALTER G. SMITH - - EDITOR.

SATURDAY : : DECEMBER 13.

## POSTAL EFFICIENCY.

Honolulu needs a new postoffice, but in discussing that matter it is as well to remember that it also needs an improvement in postal administration which will expedite the delivery of its mail.

At present when a steamer arrives with some hundreds of mail sacks, the sorting of the letters occupies several hours and the sorting of newspapers and packages often runs into the next day, the postoffice force working, meanwhile, to the limit of its capacity. Carriers are so delayed that in many instances time may be gained by depending on the box service by preference. Much of this enforced waiting, it seems to the Advertiser, could be averted by introduction of a steamship mail service corresponding in kind (though more extensive in degree) with that supplied by the railway mail service on the mainland.

This plan would work out as follows: When a steamer left San Francisco for this port, a postal clerk on board would open the Honolulu mails and assort their contents. In one bundle he would put all the letters, packages and newspapers addressed to any given firm or individual; in another all mail marked "general delivery;" in another all registered mail which requires grouping under a special address. Such mail as goes to carriers, under orders previously filed at the local postoffice, could also be put in separate bundles ready, as soon as stamped with the date of arrival, to be put in the carriers' hands. By these means one's mail, if delivered at the postoffice could be put at the disposal of its owner within half an hour after the steamer had docked and the carriers could be sent out quite as soon. There would be no long waiting for letters that require immediate reply by an outgoing mail; newspapers which are often waited for, particularly by the newspaper offices, as eagerly as letters, would have prompt delivery; and the postoffice clerks would not be overworked. What has been done in six days by an active clerk on the steamer would come off the time of clerks who are now kept busy far into the night.

Having done this work for Honolulu mail, the steamship clerk, on his return trip, could sort the mail addressed to San Francisco, thus expediting delivery at that end.

Inasmuch as the government is doing a similar work on railway cars, it does not seem too much to ask that it shall extend the principle of route segregation to the ocean service.

## UNUSED TABLE RESOURCES.

It is a complaint that Honolulu tables lack variety; that one soon finds a sameness, unless large sums are spent in bringing delicacies from the coast, which does not seem to be justified by the status of the actual food supply.

In a measure it is true, particularly as regards fish. The mullet is standard here and people eat it until they tire; yet there are plenty of fish in the market which are as good or better. Take the long, slender, mottled, pickerel-like fish which is to be found wherever the minnows congregate on which it feeds, and you have a tid-bit for the gourmand. Yet nine out of ten buyers in the market pass this delicacy, the uku, to buy the old stand-by. There are excellent panfish on the stalls but they go in the main to natives and Chinese. Small eels, fried brown, are not to be despised here any more than at Coney Island. How many men of Eastern birth do not kindly remember their luscious "bullhead" feasts in youth? Plenty of bullheads are raised here in fresh water ponds but the Chinese are left to enjoy them.

The sweet native sea crab is much in use, yet the number who do not buy it is legion. A kamaaina once told the writer that the crab is a scavenger and not fit for white men. But chickens and pigs are scavengers also and people eat them gladly. As a matter of fact there is no more palatable and wholesome food than the Hawaiian crab, especially when deviled or served a la Newburg.

In the matter of game we have lost much by the mongoose, which steals the eggs of young pheasants and quail and by the scarcity of pot-hunters who might bring in enough wild turkeys to keep the market fairly supplied. But no feathered game makes a finer delicacy than squab on toast, yet it is rare indeed that one finds the squab on hotel, restaurant or private tables. Why should it not be as common as chicken? Why should the pigeon pot-pie be so scarce? Nothing in the way of edible birds multiply so fast and are so easy to take care of as pigeons.

In the sphere of salads there is a chance for much greater variety, to which the garden may be made to contribute. Okra grows well here, but its use is limited. Indeed when one goes over the whole list of possibilities in fish, flesh and fowl, the wonder is that Honolulu tables are not more celebrated for variety than they are.

## MARKETING PUBLIC LANDS.

The Territory is now in the way of getting white homesteaders. It is starting out on the right track. It proposes to advertise its landed possessions as they have not been advertised before, using the island press and perhaps some mainland papers as descriptive mediums. Hitherto the general public has known very little indeed about the quantity, quality and geographical position of our public lands, and there was a genuine wave of surprise when the Advertiser announced, two or three years ago, that there were 90,000 acres of such property on the island of Oahu alone. Hereafter the light will be turned on, and the public will know precisely what there is available. We miss a fair guess if the policy, if thoroughly carried out, will not bring on a rush of the very best class of settlers.

It is true, as Commissioner Boyd points out, that we have no big tracts to offer as in the case of Oklahoma; but Hawaii has this advantage over Oklahoma that a living can be made on small tracts. Twenty acres here will go further than 160 acres there. True, much of the land is rocky, but Mr. Buchholz has shown what such land can be made to yield. Sisal is a fine crop for the poorest soil; chickens can be grown on rocky land and where eggs are five cents apiece and broilers seventy-five cents, chicken raising is a pretty fair thing. So is turkey-raising. Hog ranches are immensely profitable; so are the duck ranches, which will soon be driven from the suburbs of the city. Back in central New York cabbages are now quoted at \$1.75 per ton; here they sell at ten cents a pound and upwards and the high lands produce them to the Queen's taste. Even castor beans, which grow like weeds any where, produce crops which sell locally for \$60 a ton. Coffee only awaits a bounty or a favorable tariff and the vanilla bean has immense possibilities. The wooded country might be made to produce ginseng. Pineapple openings are attractive and the man who will raise an improved grade of bananas can sell them at a surprising figure. There is plenty of public land in Hawaii suitable for some one or two of these products and the Advertiser feels sure that if it is put on the market in the right way it will be quickly taken up by an industrious class of people. Why not?

A Federal official, in answer to a question put by the Advertiser yesterday, said he thought the available public lands ought to be given away in small tracts to applicants who would, as a means of obtaining title, live on them for five years and make certain prescribed improvements. He thought that settlers would come here in crowds to get free farms, and the Advertiser, knowing how such things go on the mainland and how general is the desire to get away from the cold northern winters into some tropical country under the American flag, quite agrees with him. The returns to the Territorial Government would be found in a vast increase, after five years, of taxable property and in the steady influence of a larger white vote; while the benefit to the people would be seen from the start in an increased demand for the articles of trade which white settlers require. Better, far better, a hundred small farms given free than one immense tract turned over to a cattle raiser at a nominal rental. The big cattle ranches kept California from getting ahead in population for a period of twenty-five years.

But methods are things of detail; the main thing is to put up the land in some reasonable way and give the American farmer a chance at it. This is what is coming and in it is a blessing for Hawaii which cannot be over-estimated.

## THE VENEZUELA INCIDENT.

The next mail from the coast may bring some interesting stories from the Caribbean sea. At last advices British and German ships were converging on La Guayra, the seaport of the Venezuelan capital, to collect a long overdue debt at the cannon's mouth; and hovering near was the strongest fleet ever collected under the American flag and one which was about to pass under the personal command of Admiral Dewey. It was anticipated that Dewey's scheme of maneuvers would take him close to the scene of Anglo-German operations, his business being to exercise moral pressure on behalf of the Monroe doctrine.

It is not likely, however, that this doctrine will be made an issue as it does not stand in the way, even by implication, of the international collection of debts. There is no evidence that either Great Britain or Germany is seeking a permanent foothold on the Venezuelan coast nor, even if the opportunity offered, that they would act together in taking one. As a matter of fact Great Britain, which was the inventor of the doctrine accepted by President Monroe, has lately reaffirmed her acceptance of it. She can do so in good faith because she has all the military and naval stations she requires on the West Indian seaboard—in Guiana, at Santa Lucia, St. Vincent, Jamaica and elsewhere; and because the inhibitions of the Monroe doctrine, while in no sense disturbing her territorial rights, are of a kind to keep her European rivals from getting any. It would not be for Great Britain's interest to have Germany or Russia acquire a naval depot anywhere in or near the West Indies, so, notwithstanding her present temporary alliance, her ad-

hesion to the Monroe doctrine as it stands can be fairly counted upon. In this matter as the joint sovereigns of all but the small Mexican end of North America, the United States and Great Britain have a perfect identity of interests.

The extreme probability of trouble for Venezuela itself takes the form of a seizure of the custom houses and their administration until the Anglo-German debt is paid. With this procedure the United States would have no more to do than had Great Britain with our determination to get pay of Turkey through a seizure of the Smyrna custom house, at the time the battleship Kentucky went on its collection tour in the Mediterranean. We shall simply stand aside as interested spectators, not unmindful of the need, which North Americans as well as Europeans feel, of teaching the Latin American countries the sanctity of contracts.

The Advertiser would be glad to receive and print letters from the public on the subject of the postoffice site.

## SCIENTIFIC MISCELLANY.

Tattooing the cornea with sterilized India ink is recommended by Dr. J. L. Borsch for lessening the unsightliness of opaque spots on the eye. When the opacity is slight, the treatment may even give a considerable restoration of sight.

How much of our gold may be collected from space cannot be guessed. Specks appearing to be gold have been recently taken from meteorites, and as the meteoric matter reaching the earth is estimated at many millions of tons yearly, much of the gold of the land and of sea-water may be acquired in this way.

Great earthquakes are usually followed by hundreds or even thousands of minor shocks. From 300 Italian earthquakes, Dr. Cancani has learned that when the focus of disturbance is of small depth, the after-shocks continue about 10 days; when moderately deep, three months; and when very deep, several years.

The Dead Sea, whose size is diminishing, is about 45 miles long by 8 wide, and is only 10 feet deep in its southern part. The surface is considerably below sea level, while it receives the drainage of salt, sulphur and asphalt mines. The density of the water is about 1.2 as compared with distilled water, that of sea water being only 1.027; and a recent analysis by C. A. Mitchell shows more than 24 per cent of solid matter, including 9 per cent of magnesium chloride. A bather becomes instantly covered with a layer of salt.

Painting rainbow fashion with streaks of red, blue and yellow is a British officer's plan for making cannon less conspicuous. Tried on a battery of six guns at Aldershot, the colors blended into a confused mass at a little distance, making each gun difficult to locate, and at 800 yards the outline of the gun was lost, while at 1000 yards it harmonized with trees, open grass land, sandy plains, or broken country. Approaching from about 3000 yards, some artillery officers failed to discover the guns until they had advanced to within 1000 yards.

The world's greatest monument, prized as a marvel of antiquity, seems to have been made with tools we class as modern. From evidence collected at Gizeh, W. M. Flinders-Petrie concludes that the pyramid builders used solid and tubular drills, straight and circular saws, and lathe tools, all of which were set with cutting stones, and they did work that would puzzle the artisan of today. Some granite cores show that the drill sunk one-tenth of an inch at each revolution, while the cut was clean and uniform through soft sandstone and the hardest granite. As diamonds were very scarce, it is supposed that the cutting material was corundum.

The problems of the sea about Northern Europe are to be attacked systematically by Great Britain, Germany, Holland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Russia and Finland. A definite portion of the northern waters has been assigned to each country, and simultaneous cruises will be made four times each year for recording the temperature, density, life, etc., of these seas. Additional observations are expected from regular lines of steamers, light-ships, etc. The International Council has established a central bureau at Copenhagen, from which all publications will be issued, and an international laboratory at Christiania, where observers will be trained, instruments tested, etc.

When the days are longer than the nights, more heat is received by day than is lost by night. Heat gradually accumulates in land, sea and air, so that the hottest part of the year is not in June, when the days are longest, but considerably later. From many observations, Dr. J. Schubert has shown that the soil in Northern Europe reaches its highest temperature in September and its lowest in March, air and water being warmest in August and coldest in February. The sea takes up 20 to 40 times as much heat as the land, the heat penetrating much deeper. The sea may be two degrees warmer than the air in October or November, but its average for the year is but half a degree warmer.

A "United States Food Pharmacopoeia," to aid the grocer and the food inspector as the Pharmacopoeia serves the druggist, is the suggestion of Mr. Edward N. Eaton, of the Illinois Food Commission. The work, to be prepared by experts, should contain a classification and description of the various animal, vegetable and mineral substances used for food or in preparing food, with standards of quality, methods of manufacture and preparing for the market, and chemical data to prove purity or character or amount of adulteration. Every effort should be exerted to make the book authoritative with the trade and as influential in court as possible. The United States Pharmacopoeia, selected as an excellent model, is revised every ten years, and is controlled by an incorporated body, with a board of five trustees to transact all business and a carefully chosen revision committee of twenty-five medical men and pharmacists.

## Old as the Pyramids

And as little changed by the ages, is Scrofula, than which no disease, save Consumption, is responsible for a larger mortality, and Consumption is its outgrowth.

It affects the glands, the mucous membranes, tissues and bones; causes bunches in the neck, catarrhal troubles, rickets, inflamed eyelids, sore ears, cutaneous eruptions, etc.

"I suffered from scrofula, the disease affecting the glands of my neck. I did everything I was told to do to eradicate it, but without success. I then began taking Hood's Sarsaparilla, and the swelling in my neck entirely disappeared and my skin resumed a smooth, healthy appearance. The cure was complete." Miss ANITA MITCHELL, 915 Scott St., Covington, Ky.

## Hood's Sarsaparilla and Pills

Thoroughly eradicate scrofula and build up the system that has suffered from it.

## THANKS

For the good will and preference of our Patrons and the Public.

We are sure that with the continuance of our Policy:

"RIGHT GOODS AND RIGHT PRICES."

we shall continue to maintain the same.

## WE WISH

To remind everybody that we believe we carry the finest stock and variety of Perfumery in this city, or any other place.

## WE ARE

Sole agents for the justly celebrated

## Palmer's Perfumes AND Toilet Preparations

AND ALSO carry in stock complete lines of Roger & Gallet, 4711; Colgate & Co., and other manufactures.

PINAUD'S LATEST French Carnation Extract just received.

## Hollister Drug Co.

1056 Fort Street

WM. G. IRWIN & CO., LTD.

WM. G. Irwin, President and Manager; Claus Spreckels, First Vice-President; W. M. Giffard, Second Vice-President; H. M. Whitney Jr., Treasurer and Sec.; George W. Ross, Auditor.

SUGAR FACTORS

AND

Commission Agents

AGENTS FOR THE

Oceanic Steamship Company

Of San Francisco, Cal.

## Houses to Rent

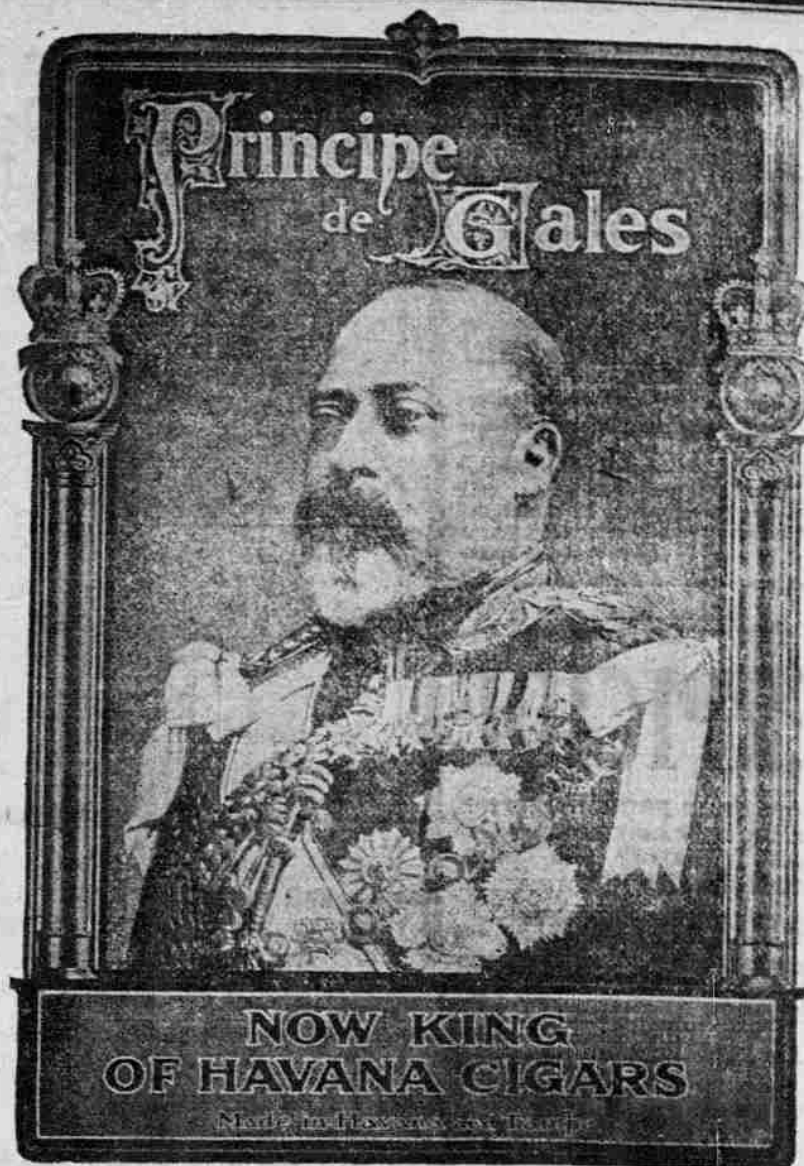
FURNISHED—  
Slemmons, Manoa ..... 42.50  
Weaver, Manoa ..... 25.00

UNFURNISHED—  
Auerbach, Keeaumoku St. 75.00  
Heilbron, Kinau St. .... 45.00  
Atwater, Kinau St. .... 40.00  
Pratt, Magazine St. .... 35.00  
Cummings, Artesian St. .... 30.00  
Atwater, Pensacola St. .... 30.00  
Weaver, Makiki St. .... 27.50  
Camara, Young St. .... 27.00  
Ouderkerk, Makiki St. .... 21.50  
Haynes, Keeaumoku St. .... 18.00  
Bargains in houses in all parts of the city. We may have just the thing that will please you and at a proper price.

Henry Waterhouse & Comp'y.

Stock and Bond Brokers.

Tel. Main 313. Fort and Merchant Streets.



Imperial Cigar Store, Distributors.

LET THERE BE LIGHT

The best light is none too good for Honolulu homes and when you can get

Incandescent Lighting

at a cost not much greater than oil, it is time to figure on making a change. If you are afraid of the cost come and let us figure with you. We will be pleased to do so. Think of the convenience of electricity—no dirt, no smoke, no smell.

Haw'n Electric Co., Ltd.

Office King Street, near Alakea. Tel. Main 390.

## H. F. Wichman, FORT STREET.

## Leathers

do not last forever, and the fear that she already has one, need not enter into consideration when seeking a useful and artistic gift.

OUR LATEST line of leather goods direct from Vienna, "the home of fine leathers" contains so many new creations, entirely different from regular styles, that just looking at them will suggest an idea.

A card case or a purse is so necessary to the well dressed caller, that care should be exercised in the selection. Our's cost all the way from \$3.00 to \$15.00, and all different. You'll not be afraid of seeing a dozen just like your's, for your's is exclusive in design.

Copper, Bronze, Silver and Gun Metal, modeled after the "New Art" ideas form pleasing mountings, while the various leathers are marvels of artistic perfection.

## H. F. Wichman, FORT STREET.